

Annual Report

**On the Health of the
Borough of Newport,
Isle of Wight,
for the year 1951**

BY

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Medical Officer of Health.

**PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION
THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE.**

Newport, I.W.:

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COUNTY HALL,
NEWPORT, I.W.

November, 1952.

To His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Newport for the year 1951.

The Live Birth Rate has increased slightly from 13·6 to 14·8 but adjusted by the comparative factor it is 16·2.

The Crude Death Rate has increased from 12·5 to 13·0 but adjusted by the comparative factor it is 11·3 per 1,000.

The Still Birth Rate has increased from 24·7 to 38·3.

The Infantile Mortality Rate has fallen from 29·0 to 26·6 per 1,000. The Death Rate of Legitimate Infants has fallen from 26·1 to 25·0 while the Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants has fallen from 83·3 to 47·62.

There were no cases of Smallpox, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, or Poliomyelitis.

There was a cyclical outbreak of Measles involving 433 cases and a much smaller one of Whooping Cough involving 157 cases. No deaths occurred in either of these outbreaks.

There was a further fall in the number of Puerperal Pyrexia cases, only one case occurred this year. This case recovered.

Three cases of mild Food Poisoning were notified.

The most serious Public Health nuisance in the Borough is undoubtedly the Corporation refuse tip at Fairlee, which creates great anxiety during the summer months owing to its being an admirable breeding ground for large numbers of flies. Conditions on the tip are bad at the best of times but during hot weather the situation is appalling. The Engineer has taken all the steps at his disposal but the impression made on the nuisance is transitory. Insufficient covering material is available for the large area involved and spraying has no great effect.

Even if a new, suitable site for refuse tipping is found, unless the Fairlee tip is effectively sealed and constantly supervised the risk to the health and well-being of the inhabitants of the Borough will continue.

A considerable amount of wanton destruction and pilfering of fixtures continues in public lavatories everywhere. This, in spite of the fact that these fixtures, soap, towels, etc., are provided for the convenience and health protection of the users. Basically the problem is one of education.

The shortage of houses is still a problem. No matter how bad a house is there are always tenants for it, glad to have a home of their own and to escape from in-laws and a shared house. Houses capable of further useful life are falling into complete decay because of the severe economic factors regulating their repair. Much could be done to recondition old property and in some cases to save it for its historical or architectural value.

I must repeat what I have said on many occasions before, with houses in such pathetically short supply it is a matter of great concern to see fine dwelling houses being turned into offices.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1951.

Medical Officer of Health—

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (ENG)., L.R.C.P.
(LOND.), D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Meat & Food Inspector—

F. K. AZE, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—

L. C. COOPER.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	15,530
Population (Registrar General's Figures)	...				20,290
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1951) per					
rate books	...	...	...	...	5,279
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£143,775
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...			£562

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated					
resident population	...	...	...		14·8
Comparative factor	...	...	...	...	1·09
Comparative Birth Rate	...	...	...		16·2
Still Birth rate per 1000 total (live and still					
births)	...	...	...	...	38·3
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated					
resident population	...	...	...		13·0
Comparative factor	...	...	...	...	0·87
Comparative Death Rate	...	...	...		11·3
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy					
childbirth :—					
Rate per 1000 total (live and still births)					Nil
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—					
All infants per 1000 live births	...				26·6
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate					
live births	...	...	...	...	25·0
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate					
live births	...	...	...	...	47·62
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...		41
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...		Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...				Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)					Nil

BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 301 of which 280 were legitimate and 21 illegitimate. The live birth rate was 14·8 per 1000 living ; the birth rate for England and Wales being 15·5.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths was 263 which gives a death rate of 13·0 per 1000 of the estimated resident population, the death rate for England and Wales being 12·5.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 26·6 per 1000 registered live births ; the rate for England and Wales generally was 29·6.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Inspection under the Public Health Act	...	...	483
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	321
Drainage Inspections	...	...	314
Visits to Watershed Area	...	...	27
Camping Sites, etc.	...	...	61
Infectious disease	...	...	10
Knackers Yard	...	...	9
Rag and Bone dealers	...	...	11
Rats and Mice	...	...	9
Shops Act premises	...	...	55
Factories	...	...	13
„ Outworkers	...	...	66
Food preparation Premises	...	...	39
Ice Cream	...	...	103
Ice Cream Production (Heat Treatment Regs.)	...	...	9
Bakehouses	...	...	54
Cafes	...	...	41
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	13
Licensed Premises	...	...	2
Schools and School Kitchens	...	...	24
Dairies	...	...	26
Foodshops and Food Storage Premises	...	...	179
Slaughterhouses	...	...	529
			<hr/> 2,398 <hr/>
Complaints received	...	...	285
Informal Notices Served	...	...	236
„ „ Complied with	...	...	249
Statutory Notices served—			
(a) Public Health Act	...	...	2
(b) Housing Act	...	...	—

Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	191
Water, colour, smoke and chemical tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	...	39
Water samples taken						
(a) Drinking water	...	...	...	...	...	80
(b) Swimming Bath water	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ice cream samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	23

FOOD.

Meat Inspection.

Two slaughterhouses are in use in the Borough.

(1) Heytesbury Farm Slaughterhouse, Newport. Occupied by M.O.F. and used for slaughter of Beasts, Sheep and Calves.

(2) 35, 37 and 39, Scarrots Lane, Newport. Slaughterhouse occupied by Messrs. A. W. Abraham & Co., Ltd., and used for slaughter of bacon pigs, cottagers pigs and pigs for retail butchering for M.O.F.

During the year 529 visits were made to these premises.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND MEAT CONDEMNED.

	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
No. Killed	3810	2491	2036	2748	11,084
No. Inspected	3810	2491	2036	2748	11,084
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned	9	11	2	11	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1543	6	34	414	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	40.7	—	1.76	15.5	
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned	44	4	—	4	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	592	—	—	184	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	16.7	—	—	6.84	
	Tons	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.	
Total meat condemned	38	12	2	9	
Fish		10	1	18	
Other Foodstuffs	1	1	2	18	
	40	4	2	17	

In addition 3,433 tins of various foodstuffs were destroyed.

During the year the M.O.F. carried out extensive alterations to Heytesbury Slaughterhouse, including new Manager's Office, Slaughtermen's meals and washing room, animal waiting pens, gut and fat room, and improved hanging and slaughtering facilities.

Both slaughterhouses have been well maintained and the managements co-operated readily in complying with the requirements of the Local Authority.

During the year all beasts were inspected for *Cysticercus Bovis*.

Routine examination for this disease was not made in this country until after the war. Examination is made by incision of the muscles of the jaw, heart and diaphragm for the presence of cysts. The carcase is later examined similarly.

The cyst is round or oval and varies in size from a pin-head to a pea. Consumed by man, it develops into a tapeworm known as *Taenia Saginata* which lives in the intestine and varies in length from 10 to 25 feet. There are from 1,000 to 1,300 segments, and a person harbouring the tapeworm may pass off 8 or 10 segments daily. The disease was unknown in this country before the war, and was probably introduced by P.O.W's and D.P's. Indiscriminate defaecation on farm land is therefore a social menace, and the incidence of the disease emphasizes the connection between ineffectual drainage, the food animal and man.

When the disease is located the origin of the animal is traced and the Local Authority concerned notified. Although such notification is carried out by your Inspectors, it is not a general practice, neither is it compulsory. In addition, although a Local Authority may receive a number of notifications pointing to a heavy incidence of the disease from one farm or area, no compulsory steps can be taken to obtain samples of faeces from any person.

FOOD PREMISES.

During the year 326 inspections were carried out with regard to premises where food is stored, prepared, or sold, and improvements have continued.

Where the supply of hot water appeared to be insufficient, an adequate supply was requested. In this connection it is relevant to note that hot water supply appliances continue to bear an appreciable amount of tax while the Local Authorities are urged to ensure cleaner and safer food premises.

In many cases where modernisation of premises is necessary the works have been deferred pending the reduction of high building costs or because of the financial circumstances of the owners. However, during the year one large firm carried out extensive alterations and rebuilding to their meat products preparation factory, becoming the best of its kind in the Borough.

ICE CREAM.

At 31st December, 1951, there were 66 premises registered for storage and 2 premises registered for manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream—an increase of 30 premises over the total for 1950.

No samples taken were classified as unsatisfactory i.e. in Grades 3 and 4. During the year 103 inspections were carried out.

Premises which supplied those samples found in grade 2 were given special attention and repeat samples taken.

Results of samples are as follows :—

Total No. taken	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Action taken
23	10	12	Nil	Nil	One sample of pink ice-cream could not be tested
	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory		

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The following duties continue to be the responsibility of the Council.

(1) Registration of all premises where the trade of milk distributor (person trading from premises other than a dairy farm) is carried on.

(2) The issue of dealers licences in respect of designated raw, pasteurised and sterilised milks.

Number of premises registered under (1)—4.

Number of dealers registered under (2) in respect of

(a) Pasteurised—15.

(b) Tuberculin Tested—7.

In addition, inspections of the one pasteurisation plant in the Borough are made by your Sanitary Inspectors on behalf of the County Medical Officer of Health.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS, 1944.

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Winchester, for the presence of live Tubercle Bacilli.

One of these milks was found to be positive and arrangements were at once made with the producers to have the milk heat treated at the plant of the Isle of Wight Creameries Ltd. The Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries took appropriate action to detect and deal with the offending animals.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during the year 1951	...	...	...	...	...	41
Number of samples found to be positive	...					1
Number of samples in which <i>Brucella Abortus</i> was isolated	...	...	...	...		1

Pasteurising premises have been subject to supervision and samples of pasteurised milk from these premises have been taken at the rate of four samples monthly. The results for the year under review were 100% satisfactory.

KNACKERS YARD.

There are two knackers yards in the Borough licensed by the Council under Section 57, Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

9 visits of inspection were made and the premises satisfactorily maintained.

WATER SUPPLY.

No samples of water for Chemical Analysis were taken during the year. The following samples of water were taken for Bacteriological Examination during the year and the results were as follows :—

Bacteriological.	No. of Samples.	Unsatisfactory.
Idlecombe Well	5	1 (June)
A & B Bores Bowcombe	6	1 (June)
Bowcombe Well	8	2 (January June)
South Orchard Bore Carisbrooke	14	NIL
North Orchard Bore Carisbrooke	12	2 (November)
East Orchard Bore Carisbrooke	11	NIL
Carisbrooke Well	17	NIL
Tap, 39, Quay Street (Chlorinated)	1	NIL
Mobile Canteen	2	1 (June) Heavy
Hose Pipe Cross Street Premises (Chlorinated)	1	NIL
Inside Tap Cross Street Premises (Chlorinated)	1	NIL
Hose Pipe Market (Chlorinated)	1	NIL
Well Water Downend	1	1 (November) Heavy
TOTAL	80	

The owner-occupier of the Downend premises was advised as to measures which could be carried out to ensure a safe water supply.

SWIMMING POOLS.

The public and private swimming pools were efficiently operated with the exception of a breakdown in the chlorination plant at the Fairlee Pool with its resultant unsatisfactory bacteriological water sample. All other bacteriological samples were satisfactory.

Bacteriological Samples.				Unsatisfactory	Date
Seaclose Pool	...	...	1	1	3.7.51.
			3	NIL	
Little Canada	...	...	1	NIL	3.7.51.
Lakeside	...	...	1	NIL	3.7.51.

A chemical water sample which was taken at Seaclose Pool on July 16th, 1951, was satisfactory.

THE RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

The premises in the Borough concerned with the above legislation were inspected but not one required registration.

DRAINAGE.

The present circumstances of national and local economy offer little hope of an early solution but renewals and repairs of drainage systems have been continued throughout the year.

Sewage disposal in a satisfactory manner continues as the only answer to problems connected with public health and the abatement of existing nuisances in the under-mentioned areas :—

- (a) Bowcombe valley water catchment area.
- (b) Westminster Lane.
- (c) North Fairlee.
- (d) East Cowes Road.
- (e) Watergate Road.

HOUSING.

- (1) Houses inspected under the Public Health Act—170.
Informal notices served—131.
Statutory notices served—2.
- (2) Houses inspected under the Housing Act—41.
Revisits—40. Number of visits under special survey—38.
Informal notices served—NIL.
Statutory notices served—NIL.

Overcrowding.

Informal notices served—1.
Inspections—8.

Every effort continues to be made to avoid the service of statutory notices and only two were served during the year.

A survey of houses nearing the end of their useful life was made, but until the supply of new dwellings is sufficient to meet demand, the number of worn out dwellings will continue to increase and in turn become a major problem.

FACTORIES ACTS 1938 and 1948. YEAR 1951.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.)

PART I OF THE ACT.

INSPECTIONS.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	22	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	123	13	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	47	—	—	—
TOTAL	192	13	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Found	Remed'd	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	3	3	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORKERS.

Section 110

Section 111

Nature of work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Lampshades	42	—	—	—	—	—
Tailors	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	43	—	—	—	—	—

RAT INFESTATION.

District	Properties Inspected	Properties Treated		Total dealt with by local Authority
		Rats	Mice	
Newport	1340	141	103	244

Council Refuse Tips and Sewage Beds kept under supervision and treated when necessary.

Sewers treated regularly as per Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries instructions., i.e. 10% Annual Test plus Maintenance 6-monthly if necessary.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

House refuse in the Borough is collected weekly.

No. of Vehicles Employed	Tonnage Collected	Vehicle Loads	Total Mileage	Disposal
3	3,400	Average 55 per week	15,808	Riverside, Fairlee

Salvage.

Paper, £1,965. Rags, £162. Metal, £38.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer for the above figures.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases, other than Tuberculosis, was 619. There were no notifications of Diphtheria.

DIPHTHERIA.

This disease is one of the most serious killing infections of man. It used to claim large numbers of victims, mainly children who died in a most horrible way. Owing to the unrelenting efforts of Medical Officers of Health in the past, who knew, that in diphtheria immunisation they had a safe and potent weapon against this scourge, the disease was beaten but not wiped out. Because of the overwhelming success of diphtheria immunisation the word Diphtheria has ceased to bring to the present generation the alarm that it caused to their fathers and mothers. But it must be remembered that the disease is still with us, lurking in the throats of protected individuals simply waiting for an opportunity to strike and kill as is its very nature.

There is only one way to be certain that this disease never strikes back and that is by ensuring that the population, especially the children, are properly immunised against it. Most adults are immunised unwittingly by repeated small infections of which they know nothing. Children can only be rendered immune by the safe, uncomplicated procedure of immunisation by their family or clinic doctor.

A child who has not this protection is in danger of its life. It is only sheer chance that saves it.

In Newport only 43·3 per cent of children under 5 enjoy the benefit of this protection. 86·18 per cent of children of school age are protected. This means that large numbers of infants are being exposed quite unnecessarily to the chance of death.

There are so many causes of death that one cannot avoid. Surely it is not asking too much that parents should help their children to one of the certain means of avoiding it.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

DURING THE YEAR 1951.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	15	9	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Pneumonia ...	6	—	*5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Other diseases generally notifiable	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—
Polio- Encephalitis ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	157	—	—
Measles ...	433	7	—
Dysentery ...	2	2	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	3	—	—
TOTALS	619	19	5

*This figure may include certain cases of Pneumonia which are not notifiable.

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Food Poisoning	Polio-Encephalitis	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Meningococcal Infection.	Whooping Cough.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles.	Dysentery.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	9	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	31	—
2 " " 3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	42	2
3 " " 4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	47	—
4 " " 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	70	—
5 " " 10	8	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	56	—	216	—
10 " " 15	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	4	—	10	—
15 " " 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
20 " " 35	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	7	—
35 " " 45	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 " " 65	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	15	—	1	6	1	—	3	—	—	1	157	—	433	2

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES.			Vision un- impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Death.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At home	In hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS, 1951.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.					DEATHS.				
	Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 „ 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 „ 10	4	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
10 „ 15	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—
15 „ 20	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20 „ 25	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 „ 35	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 „ 45	4	1	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
45 „ 55	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 „ 65	4	3	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 and over	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	25*	12	5	3	5	3	1	1	1	—

*Included in this total are four patients who have been transferred from the mainland.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES
OCCURRING IN SCHOOLS

Mumps	...	...	4	Influenza	...	...	—
Chicken Pox	...	...	35	Influenzal colds	...	...	—
German Measles	...	...	5	Jaundice	...	...	—
Scabies	...	...	—				—
Ringworm	...	...	—				45
Impetigo	...	...	1				—

CAUSES OF DEATH.

<i>Cause.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1
Tuberculosis, other	1	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
Diabetes	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	20	21
Coronary disease, angina	12	4
Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	8
Other heart diseases	21	40
Other circulatory diseases	2	4
Influenza	3	2
Pneumonia	1	4
Bronchitis	5	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	3	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	27
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—
All other accidents	2	1
Suicide	2	—
Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
All causes	124	139

